



Bushfire impact on youth

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Abstract:

The authors examined the association between disaster-related traumatic experiences and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms in 155 youth, aged 8-18 years, from the Lower Eyre Peninsula of South Australia who were affected by January 2005 bushfires. Youth completed measures of PTSD symptoms and disaster experiences 11-5 months postdisaster. Many youth (27%) reported moderate to severe levels of PTSD symptoms; younger children reported greater PTSD symptom severity than older youth. Perceived personal life threat and ongoing loss/disruption were related to greater PTSD symptomatology. Following disasters, it may be helpful to identify young children and youth who perceived that their life was threatened and experienced more ongoing life disruption, as these youth may be at higher risk for persistent PTSD symptoms.

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Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event

Extreme Weather Event: Wildfires

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Australasia

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Mental Health/Stress

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Mental Health Effect/Stress: Stress Disorder

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: ☒

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children

Resource Type: ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale: ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified